THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

To be publiſh'd *Weekly*.

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A faithful NARRATIVE *of the* extraordinary Work *of the* SPIRIT *of* GOD, *at* Killyth, *and* other Congregations *in the Neighbourhood.*

THE Town and Pariſh of *Kilſyth* formerly and ordinarily until of late, called *Moniabrech*, are ſituate between the River of *Kelvin*, running upon the *South* Side of the ſaid Pariſh, and the River of *Carron* running upon the *North* Side, and the Shire of *Stirling* upon the *South* Side thereof, where it joins with the Shire of *Dumbarton*. The Town of *Kilſyth* itſelf ſtands at near an equal Diſtance from the City of *Glaſgow* upon the *South-Weſt*, *Falkirk* upon the *Eaſt*, *Stirling* upon the *North*, and *Hamilton* upon the *South*; upon the King's Highway, where it croſſeth to theſe Towns: It's Diſtance from them being about *nine Miles*.

The People of the ſaid Pariſh, being *above eleven Hundred examinable Perſons*, are for the moſt Part of a diſcreet and towardly Diſpoſition. I was ſettled among them in the Year 1713: They have lived peaceably with and carried dutifully towards me. The moſt Part of them have attended upon publick Ordinances and Means of Inſtruction as well as any about them. The moſt of them, who are about or under 40 *Years*, have attained ſuch a Meaſure of Knowledge of the Principles of Religion as renders them inferior to few of their Station and Education.

For ſeveral Years they appeared to profit under Goſpel-Ordinances by the Bleſſing of the LORD upon them. In *December* 1732 and *January* 1733, the LORD viſited us with a diſtreſſing Calamity and heavy Judgments. There were many of the elder Sort carried off by a *Pluretick* Fever, after a few Days Illneſs. Upwards of 60 were in the Space of *three Weeks* buried in our Church-Yard. What made this Diſpenſation more threatning was, that the moſt religious and judicious Chriſtians in this Congregation, were remov'd from us thereby. This made me fear ſome dreadful Evil to come upon the ſurviving Generation. I publiſhed to the Praiſe and Glory of GOD, and with thankful Acknowledgments to his Mercy and Power, that I enjoyed then a State of Health and Strength uncommon to me, as I do at this Time, tho' I travelled from Morning till late at Night all the Days of the Week, among the Sick and Dying.

After this the State of Religion declin'd, and grew every Year worſe with us. *Our Societies for Prayer came gradually to nothing.* The younger Sort attained indeed to Knowledge, took up a Profeſſion, and Numbers of them were yearly added to the Communicants: But I could obſerve little of the Power of Godlineſs in their Lives, that was ſatisfying to me. As to the elder Sort, thoſe of them who were Graceleſs and Chriſtleſs, went on in their former Sins and Careleſneſs, without any Appearance of a Change to the Better: Thoſe who were *Profeſſors* ſeemed ſenſibly to degenerate into a Negligence and Indifferency about ſpiritual Things, and ſome of them into Drunkenneſs and other Vices.

Upon the 27*th* of *June* 1733, about and after Mid-day, being *Wedneſday*, there was ſuch a *dreadful Storm* of *Thunder*, *Hail and Rain*, as no Man living had ever ſeen. The Fire burnt a Woman and Child, but both their Lives were preſerved; while a Cat was killed at one of her Feet, & a Pitcher with ſome other Things were broke to Pieces at the other. The *Hail* was incredibly big; ſome of it, which I meaſured myſelf, was *three Inches* round. It deſtroy'd much of the Corn to the *Eaſt* of the Town of *Kilſyth*. The *Floods* came from the Mountains ſo great and rapid, that they carried down *Stones* a great Way into the Plain lying be-*north* the Town of *Kylſyth*, and theſe of prodigious Bigneſs. There were *above a Thouſand Cart-Loads* of them, and many *two or three Ells* in depth and thickneſs. Some Houſes were carried away, a

good

good Number of Cattle drowned, and the moſt of the Corn in the low Grounds deſtroyed. The Loſs of the Pariſh was moderately computed at a *Thouſand* Pound *Sterling*. Yet I could not obſerve any one Perſon amended by it, or ſeeking to the LORD for all this.

When our unhappy Diviſions broke out, only about *ten* or *twelve* deſerted my Miniſtry. They were of no Conſideration, as to ſerious Religion, or even Knowledge, except *one*, who ſome Time ſince ſaw his Error and returned. Yet tho' the Body of the People were not carried away by this Evil, they were ſo bewitched as to incline to the *ſeparating Side*, and were ſo taken up with diſputable Things, that little Concern about thoſe of the greateſt Importance could be obſerved among them. *All the Societies for* PRAYER *were then given up*. I gave fair and open Warning from the firſt Appearance of the Diviſion againſt it. I continually inſtructed them in the evil, and dreadful Conſequences of it. Tho' ſuch Warnings were not well reliſhed by many, yet I am perſwaded the Lord bleſſed them, to preſerve the Body of the Congregation out of thoſe dangerous Paths; and I know ſeveral of them are now ſenſible of GOD's Mercy and Goodneſs to them in this. By the Power of GOD accompanying his Ordinances, Life was kept in the few who were made alive to GOD, through JESUS CHRIST; and others had Knowledge, begun and increaſed as a Foundation laid before-hand for this Work of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Under the *late Dearth*, this People ſuffered greatly; the Poor were numerous, and many eſpecially about the Town of *Kilſyth*, were at the Point of ſtarving: Yet, as I frequently obſerved to them, I could not ſee any one turning to the LORD who ſmote them, or crying to him becauſe of their Sins, while they howled upon their Beds for Bread. Inſtead of this, Theft and other Immoralities brake forth and increaſed to a terrible Height. The Return of *Plenty* had no better Influence upon us; but *we were going on frowardly in the Way of our own Heart, when the* LORD *came to ſee our Ways and heal them, by this uncommon Diſpenſation of his Grace.* All this hath been Narrated, that every one may obſerve the *ſovereign Freedom* and *Riches* of *Grace*, in viſiting after this Sort ſo ſinful, degenerate, and ungainable a People. Surely *not for our Sakes*, but *his own holy Name's Sake* he hath done it; that we may now be aſhamed and confounded for our evil Ways.

In the Year 1740, I began to preach upon the Doctrine of REGENERATION. The Method I followed by the divine Direction, was *firſt* to preſs the *Importance* and *Neceſſity* of it, which I did from *Joh.* iii. 3. *Except a Man be born again, he cannot ſee the Kingdom of* GOD. *Next* I ſhewed the *Myſterieuſneſs* of the *Way* and *Manner* of the HOLY SPIRIT in effecting it from *John* iii. 8. *The Wind bloweth where it liſteth, and thou heareſt the Sound thereof, but canſt not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: So is every one that is born of the* SPIRIT. I proceeded *thirdly*, to explain and apply the various *Scripture Views* and *Expreſſions* of it: As (*firſt*) being *Born again*, from the forequoted, *John* iii. 3. (*Secondly*) a *Reſurrection*, from *Rev.* xx. 6. *Bleſſed and holy is he, that hath Part in the firſt Reſurrection.* (*Thirdly*) a new *Creation*, from *Eph.* ii. 10. *For we are his Workmanſhip created in* CHRIST JESUS *unto good Works.* (*Fourthly*) CHRIST's *Conqueſt* of the Sinner to himſelf, from *Pſal.* cx. 3. *Thy People ſhall be willing in the Day of thy Power.* (*Fifthly*) the *Circumciſion* of the Heart, from *Ezek.* xliv. 9. *Thus ſaith the* LORD GOD, *no Stranger uncircumciſed in Heart, nor uncircumciſed in Fleſh, ſhall enter into my Sanctuary, of any Stranger among the Children of Iſrael.* This was alſo intended to ſhew the *Neceſſity* of *Regeneration*, in order to the receiving the Lord's Supper *worthily*, to be diſpenſed in the Congregation about that Time. Here this Project was interrupted until the End of laſt Year; when I reſuming it preached Regeneration as it is, (*Sixthly*) the *taking away the ſtony Heart*, and the *giving the Heart of Fleſh*, from *Ezek.* xi. 19. (*Seventhly*) *The putting of* GOD's *Law in the Mind, and writing it in the Heart*, from *Heb.* viii. 10.

I ſometimes could obſerve that the Doctrine of theſe Sermons was acceptable to the Lord's People, and that there was more than ordinary Serioufneſs in hearing them, yet could ſee no further Fruit. But now I find that the LORD who is infinitely wiſe, and knoweth the End from the Beginning, was preparing ſome for this uncommon Diſpenſation of the SPIRIT that we looked not for; and that others were brought under Convictions, iſſuing by the Power of the Higheſt in their real Converſion, and in a ſilent Way.

When the News was firſt brought me of the *extraordinary Out-pouring* of the HOLY GHOST at *Cambuſlang*, I rejoiced at them. I prayed continually for the Continuance of it there, and that the LORD would thus viſit us in theſe Bounds; and

ſpake

ſpake of it ſometimes to the Congregation, which was not without ſome good Fruit, as I have learned ſince. Particularly I was informed by the Miniſter of *Cambuſlang* and another reverend and very dear Brother, that *a young Man* from the Pariſh of *Falkirk*, who had been awakened at *Cambuſlang*, and was in a hopeful Condition, ſaid, that the Occaſion of his coming there, was his hearing me the Sabbath immediately preceeding, praiſe the Appearance of the LORD at the foreſaid Place, and that this ſtrongly inclined him to go thither.

There were few of the People under my Charge, went to *Cambuſlang*, notwithſtanding of what they heard me ſay of it. Some of the better Sort went once or twice: But I ſcarce heard of any who needed moſt of the Work of the Comforter to convince them of Sin, Righteouſneſs, and of Judgment, that went there until the 13*th* of *May*; when there were a good many, but came all away as far as I knew them, without any deep or laſting Impreſſions upon them. It was Matter of Diſcouragement to me, when I heard that my Brethren in *Cumbernauld*, *Kirkintilloch*, *Calder*, and *Campſie*, had ſeveral Perſons in their Pariſhes awakened at *Cambuſlang*; and that I had not one, ſo much as the leaſt touched to my Knowledge. What appeared *the moſt hopeful* was, that there appeared *a Concern more than ordinary* among the Hearers of the Goſpel, and that there were Propoſals for *ſetting up Societies for Prayer*, which had been long intermitted.

Upon the *Thurſday Evening*, being the 15th of *April* laſt, the Rev. Mr. *John Williſon*, Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Dundee*, came to my Houſe in his Return from *Cambuſlang*, whither he went the *Saturday* before. I deſired him to preach to us upon the *Friday Morning*, which he readily complied with, a great Multitude of People met, tho' the Warning was very ſhort. He preached a diſtinct, plain and moving Sermon from *Pſal.* xl. 2, 3. *He brought me up alſo out of an horrible Pit, out of the miry Clay, and ſet my Feet upon a Rock, and eſtabliſhed my Goings: And he hath put a new Song in my Mouth, even Praiſe to our God: Many ſhall ſee it, and fear, and ſhall truſt in the Lord.* Several of theſe now awakened, date their firſt ſerious Concern about their Souls from their hearing this Sermon, and the Bleſſing of the LORD upon it.

The *following Sabbath* I entered upon the *View* of *Regeneration*, as it is expreſſed, Gal. iv. 19. *My little Children, of whom I travail in Birth again until* CHRIST *be formed in you.* I had more

more than ordinary Tenderneſs in reading of that Text, and could ſcarce do it without Tears and Emotion. I obſerved much Serioufneſs among the Hearers.

Laſt Sabbath of *April* being the 25*th*. *One Woman* was awakened in this Congregation to a very diſtreſſing Sight of her Sin and Danger thereby. She lived in the Pariſh of *Campſie*, which lyeth to the *Weſtward* of this Pariſh. She was obſerved by ſome, under great Uneaſineſs in the Congregation, but made no Out-cry: She went away when the Congregation was diſmiſs'd, but was not able to go far; ſhe was found ſoon in the Field in great Diſtreſs, and crying out, *what ſhe ſhould do to be ſaved*: ſhe was brought back to me, and I converſed with her all that Eveniug in the Preſence of ſeveral judicious Perſons. She fainted once or twice: I obſerved every Thing narrowly and exactly about her, becauſe it was a new Thing to me, and I knew the Objections made againſt the Work at *Cambuſlang*. She ſeem'd to be a healthy Woman, and about *twenty Years* of *Age*: ſhe ſaid that in hearing the Sermon ſhe was made to ſee that ſhe was unlike JESUS CHRIST, and like the *Devil*, and in a State of Unregeneracy. She had ſtrong Impreſſions of the *Greatneſs* of the *Wrath* of GOD, ſhe was lying under and lyable to. She went away compoſed and calm in a hopeful Condition; ſhe continued many Weeks, now and then much diſtreſs'd; but hath ſometime ago attained through Grace to ſenſible Relief, and by the Teſtimony of the Neighbourhood, her Converſation is ſuch as becometh the Goſpel.

About this time *ſixteen Children* or thereabouts in the Town of *Kirkintilloch*, were obſerved *to meet* together in a *Barn* for *Prayer*; the Occaſion of which was, that one of them ſaid to the reſt, *What need is there that we ſhould always* PLAY, *had we not better go and* PRAY? Wherewith the reſt complied. The Rev. Mr. *James Burnſide* as ſoon as he heard of it carefully enquired after them, met frequently with them, for their Direction and Inſtruction. And as I am inform'd they make Progreſs, & continue in a hopeful Way. This made much Noiſe in the Country-ſide, and *deep Impreſſions* both upon *young* and *old*.

This Week I viſited the Families of a Part of this Pariſh, where I obſerved more than ordinary *Serioufneſs* amongſt the People; and more than ordinary Liberty, *Freedom* and *Earneſtneſs* in my dealing with them. However it was Matter of Trouble and Exerciſe to me, that none under my Charge, that I knew off, were awakened; and I was much in my Way of think-

ing,

ing like ſeveral of thoſe now awakened, who were concerned at firſt, leaſt the LORD had paſſed them by, when he was awakening others. Such were *my Fears* about this Pariſh.

Nothing appeared more than ordinary upon the *firſt Sabbath* of *May*. Near this Time and a little before, there were *ſome Societies for Prayer* erected in the Pariſh; I was alſo informed that *ſeveral young Girls* in the Town of *Kilſyth*, from *ten* to *ſixteen* Years of Age, had been obſerved *meeting together for Prayer*, in *an Out-Houſe* they had acceſs to.

May 9th, Being the *ſecond Lord's-Day* of that Month, were *four* or *five* awakened to a diſtreſſing Sight of their ſinful and loſt Eſtate; tho' *only two* of them were known to me upon the ſaid Day. I prayed and hoped that this might be like ſome Drops before a plentiful Rain.

May 11th, There was a great and a good Day of the Son of Man at *Auchenloch* in the Pariſh of *Calder*, which lyeth *four Miles* North and Weſt, from *Glaſgow*. The Rev. Mr. *James Warden*, their Miniſter preached at the aforeſaid Place; there was a great Cry in the Congregation, and about *fourteen* bro't under great Concern and Anxiety about their ſpiritual and eternal State.

May 12th, I went to *Cambuſlang* and preached there, as did alſo ſome other Miniſters upon the next Day. I was witneſs there to a great Day of the Mediator's Power; and learned much, that by the Lord's Bleſſing hath been uſeful to me in aſſiſting the Lord's People bro't under ſpiritual Diſtreſs here.

May 14th, being *Friday*, I left *Cambuſlang* in the Morning; I met an Event in my Way homeward, which much ſurpriz'd me, and I could not but obſerve the Lord's Hand remarkably in it. I promiſed to meet a Friend at a Gentleman's Houſe betwixt *Cambuſlang* and *Kilſyth* upon the *Tueſday Evening*; but could not leave *Cambuſlang* that Night. I purpoſed therefore to be early at the ſaid Gentleman's Houſe next Day; tho' the Road by which I went to *Cambuſlang* was unexceptionably good, I was ſtrongly inclined to try a much nearer Way, altogether unknown to me, and notwithſtanding ſome diſſwaded me from it, becauſe of Moſſes and other Inconveniencies. In my Way I came to a Houſe, which I was told belonged to Meſſrs. *Grays*, and that their Bleach-field was there. I remembred that theſe Gentlemen were married to the Daughters of a Gentleman whom I knew, and highly eſteemed from my Youth; and ſince I found my ſelf at their Gate,

Gate, I enquired for them with a Purpoſe not to alight. One of the Gentlemen and his Lady were at Home; they urged me to come into their Houſe, tho' it ſhould be only for a little, which I did. They told me that *ſix* of their *Servants* had been awakened at *Cambuſlang* ſome Days ſince, and deſired me to converſe with them. I had ſuch a ſtrong Inclination to get forward in my Journey that I declined it: They deſired me to pray in their Family, which I cheerfully complied with. After Prayer I ſpoke a few Words as the Lord helped me, to their numerous *Servants* who were preſent, relating to the Caſe of thoſe who were under Soul-diſtreſſing Convictions of their Sin and Danger, as alſo of thoſe who never had been under them. Having diſmiſſed them I went to take my Horſe. Ere I got to him, a Noiſe was heard among the *Servants*, and we were told that *one* of them was fallen into great Uneaſineſs, and was crying bitterly. I returned to the Houſe, and ſhe was brought to me. I had converſed but a very ſhort Time with her when a *ſecond* was brought to me, then a *third*, in a little after that *two together*, laſt of all a *ſixth* crying out of their loſt and undone State, and what they ſhould do. I prayed and converſed with them for ſometime. I was much moved with this Providence. *The Lord, who leads the blind in a Way they know not, led me to this Houſe, without any Thought or Purpoſe of my Mind*, yea contrary to my Inclination, which was to haſte forward. He managed my Averſion (which I now ſee to have been ſinful) to converſe with the *firſt ſix* under Diſtreſs to bring about his own holy and glorious Ends: For if I had converſed with them, I had not ſeen the other Servants. His Ways are a great Deep. Mr. *Whitefield*, when I told him this Story ſaid only, '*He muſt needs go through* SAMARIA.' I was greatly pleaſed to obſerve the chriſtian, affectionate and zealous Care Mr. and Mrs. *Gray* had for their diſtreſſed *Servants*.

(*To be continued.*)

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